(b) if so, what is the quantum of fine imposed and the details of the case;

(c) whether any inquiry has been ordered to fix the responsibility of the officials of the Bank in this regard. if not what are the rasons therefor; and

(d) whether Government propose to take steps to recover the fine from those officials who are responsible for colluding with the dealer?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Bank of Madura Limited had opened a few letters of credit on behalf of one Shri Vinod Kumar Didwania a dealer in steel items. The Collector of Customs, Madras on grounds of violation of Customs Act, 1962 had adjudicated the cases in respect of these transactions and ordered confiscation of the goods imported under section 111(d) of the Act. Since the supposed importers had not come forward to clear the goods the Collector of Customs, Madras allowed the same to be redeemed by the Bank of Madura Ltd. as joint holder of the import licences on redemption fines totalling to Rs. 7 lakhs. Central Board of Excise and Customs reviewed this decision of the Collector of Custmos Madras and had thereafter directed him to apply to Customs, Central Excise and Gold (Control) appellate Tribunal for enhancement of redemption fines and also for imposition of Personal Penalties on Shri Vinod Kumar Didwania and the Bank of Madura Ltd. The Customs, Excise and Gold (Control) appellate Tribunal allowed the appeals preferred by the Collector of Customs Madras and enhanced the total fine on Bank of Madura Ltd. from Rs. 7 lakhs to Rs. 35 lakhs and also imposed a penalty of Rs. 10 lakhs on Shri Vinod Kumar Didwania.

(c) and (d) The matter has been taken up with Reserve Bank of India.

Loss to FCI due to poor storage of Foodgrains

936. SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Food Corporation of India has been incurring losses due to the open storage/poor storage of fodgrains;

(b) if so, the extent of loss incurred during the years 1982-83, 1983-84 and 1984-85 as a result thereof; and

(c) what steps Government have taken or propose to take to avoid such losses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR PLANNING, FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The total storage loss of foodgrains during the years 1982-83, 1983-84 and 1984-85 has been to the extent of 0.65 per cent, 0.59 per cent and 0.60 per cent of the stocks issued respectively.

(c) The Government has taken a number of steps to further reduce these losses such as increasing covered storage capacity, scientific storage and preservation, periodial inspections and pest control measures.

Ban on import of meat by certain countries

937. DR. MOHD. HASHIM KIDWAI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 2247 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 10th December, 1985 and state:

(a) what progress has been made in persuading the Governments of